

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOREN. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1554 would take certain property in McIntosh County, Oklahoma, into trust for the benefit of the Muscogee Creek Nation.

The Creek Nation has over 69,000 enrolled citizens at its headquarters in my district in beautiful eastern Oklahoma. As part of their effort to provide economic development in this very rural area of Oklahoma, the Nation purchased the Fountainhead Lodge and 48 surrounding acres from the State of Oklahoma.

Fountainhead was once touted as the State's premier resort lodge, but the property had fallen into disrepair. The Creek Nation hopes to turn the property into a destination resort at Lake Eufaula, bringing much-needed tourism dollars to this distressed area, one of the poorest in the Nation.

The property included a hotel, recreational building and duplex cabins, as well as 18 acres of Army Corps of Engineers land that came with the property as a lease. A subsequent survey determined that the recreational building was located entirely on the Corps' land. The Corps suggested that they transfer the ownership of the leased land to the Creek Nation to assist in the development of the property.

On April 21, 2010, the Committee on Natural Resources held a hearing on this legislation. The administration testified in support of the bill, but expressed concerns with the manner in which it was drafted. At the full committee markup, I offered an amendment in the nature of a substitute to address their concerns. The bill as amended was favorably reported by voice vote.

Additional changes have been made to H.R. 1554. The bill now prohibits gaming on the lands that are subsequent to this legislation. Further, a provision was added to ensure that if there are hazardous materials on the lands, the Federal Government remains responsible for cleaning them up. Finally, language was added to account for any budgetary impacts this legislation may have.

Enactment of H.R. 1554 would allow the Creek Nation to move forward with their plans to build a full-scale lake resort. This project will bring hundreds of much-needed jobs and economic prosperity to the region. Resolutions of support for this project have been passed by members of the legislature from the Lake Eufaula area, Checotah Chamber of Commerce, City of Henryetta, City of Eufaula, and the Lake Eufaula Association.

I ask my colleagues to support passage of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD an exchange of letters between the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure concerning H.R. 1554.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, June 28, 2010.

Hon. JAMES OBERSTAR,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your willingness to expedite floor consideration of H.R. 1554, a bill to take certain property in McIntosh County, Oklahoma, into trust for the benefit of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

I appreciate your willingness to waive rights to further consideration of H.R. 1554, notwithstanding the jurisdictional interest of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. Of course, this waiver does not prejudice any further jurisdictional claims by your Committee over this legislation or similar language. Furthermore, I agree to support your request for appointment of conferees from the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure if a conference is held on this matter.

This exchange of letters will be placed in the committee report and inserted in the Congressional Record as part of the consideration of the bill on the House floor. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others between our respective committees.

With warm regards, I am

Sincerely,

NICK J. RAHALL II,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COM-
MITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE,
Washington, DC, June 28, 2010.

Hon. NICK RAHALL,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN RAHALL: I write to you regarding H.R. 1554, a bill to take certain property in McIntosh County, Oklahoma, into trust for the benefit of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

H.R. 1554 contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. I recognize and appreciate your desire to bring this legislation before the House in an expeditious manner and, accordingly, I will not seek a sequential referral of the bill. However, I agree to waive consideration of this bill with the mutual understanding that my decision to forgo a sequential referral of the bill does not waive, reduce, or otherwise affect the jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure over H.R. 1554.

Further, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure reserves the right to seek the appointment of conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation on provisions of the bill that are within the Committee's jurisdiction. I ask for your commitment to support any request by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for the appointment of conferees on H.R. 1554 or similar legislation.

Please place a copy of this letter and your response acknowledging the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure's jurisdictional interest in the Committee Report on H.R. 1554 and in the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure in the House.

I look forward to working with you as we prepare to pass this important legislation.

Sincerely,

JAMES L. OBERSTAR, M.C.,
Chairman.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Oklahoma has adequately described the purpose of this bill. I am pleased to lend my support to this bill, which will enable the Muscogee Creek Nation of Oklahoma to acquire land and put it into productive use at no cost to the taxpayer.

I also appreciate the sponsor, the gentleman from Oklahoma, and the chairman of the committee, for ironing out the minor technical concerns that were brought up in relation to gaming in the original version of the bill. I think those improvements add to this bill. This is a good bill as it has been amended, and I urge its adoption.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Speaker, I also want to particularly thank the chairman for allowing us to have the hearing and for the markup, but I really want to say a special thank you to the ranking member and his staff for working with us on these technical changes and making sure that everything was ironed out.

I want to thank the Creek Nation for all the hard work it has put into this legislation. I want to thank the Chief, the Council, and all the community leaders that have made this possible. I ask for a "yes" vote.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. BOREN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1554, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

INDIAN PUEBLO CULTURAL CENTER CLARIFICATION ACT

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4445) to amend Public Law 95-232 to repeal a restriction on treating as Indian country certain lands held in trust for Indian pueblos in New Mexico, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4445

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Indian Pueblo Cultural Center Clarification Act”.

SEC. 2. REPEAL OF RESTRICTION ON TREATING AS INDIAN COUNTRY CERTAIN LANDS HELD IN TRUST FOR INDIAN PUEBLOS IN NEW MEXICO.

Public Law 95-232 is amended in the first section in subsection (b) by striking “However, such property shall not be ‘Indian country’ as defined in section 1151 of title 18, United States Code.”.

SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON GAMING.

Public Law 95-232 is amended in the first section by adding at the end the following:

“(e) PROHIBITION ON GAMING.—Gaming, as defined and regulated by the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.), shall be prohibited on land held in trust pursuant to subsection (b).”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Mexico?

There was no objection.

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The Indian Pueblo Cultural Center Clarification Act is an important step that will help keep the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center serving our community and our Nation.

Founded in 1976 to celebrate the history and accomplishments of our State’s 19 Indian Pueblos, the IPCC includes a museum that honors the continuing contributions of Pueblo people to our State in their own words. The IPCC continues to serve as a gathering space for Pueblo leaders to meet and discuss issues of importance to the 19 Indian Pueblos.

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The IPCC property sits on land that was put into trust for New Mexico’s pueblos in 1978, when the Albuquerque Indian School was closed by the Bureau of Indian Education. However, in recent years, disagreement has arisen about the land’s tax status. This legislation will remove a clause in the current law that states that this land is not “Indian Country,” thereby ensuring that commercial activity on this site remains exempt from State taxation, just like all other trust land.

The bill also includes a clause that explicitly prohibits gaming at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center site, which has earned the support of the All-Indian Pueblo Council, the State of New Mexico, and the city of Albuquerque. Although it was not the intention of the All-Indian Pueblo Council to engage in gaming at this location, that provision puts to rest any concerns of residents who live nearby.

I thank each of the parties who have come to the table in this effort to bolster a place loved by so many across New Mexico’s First Congressional District and across our Nation. I’d also like to thank my colleagues from New Mexico, Representative TEAGUE and Representative LUJÁN, for their support as well.

Mr. Speaker, the House Natural Resources Committee reported this bill by unanimous consent on June 16 of this year, and I would ask my colleagues to support the passage of H.R. 4445.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from New Mexico has adequately explained the purpose of H.R. 4445. As long as the pueblos and the State of Mexico are comfortable with this legislation, I have no objection to passing it today.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. Speaker, I would simply urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4445, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4445, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair’s prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

SALMON LAKE LAND SELECTION RESOLUTION ACT

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2340) to resolve the claims of the Bering Straits Native Corporation and the State of Alaska to land adjacent to Salmon Lake in the State of Alaska and to provide for the conveyance to the Bering Straits Native Corporation of certain other public land in partial satisfaction of the land entitlement of the Corporation under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2340

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Salmon Lake Land Selection Resolution Act”.

SEC. 2. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Act is to ratify the Salmon Lake Area Land Ownership Consolidation

Agreement entered into by the United States, the State of Alaska, and the Bering Straits Native Corporation.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) AGREEMENT.—The term “Agreement” means the document—

(A) titled “Salmon Lake Area Land Ownership Consolidation Agreement”;

(B) between the United States, the State, and the Bering Straits Native Corporation on July 18, 2007, which was extended until January 1, 2011, by agreement of the parties to the Agreement effective January 1, 2009; and

(C) on file with—

(i) the Department of the Interior;

(ii) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate; and

(iii) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

(2) BERING STRAITS NATIVE CORPORATION.—The term “Bering Straits Native Corporation” means an Alaska Native Regional Corporation formed under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) for the Bering Straits region of the State.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(4) STATE.—The term “State” means the State of Alaska.

SEC. 4. RATIFICATION OF AGREEMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the provisions of this Act, Congress ratifies the Agreement.

(b) EASEMENTS.—The conveyance of land to the Bering Straits Native Corporation, as specified in the Agreement, shall include the reservation of the easements that—

(1) are identified in Appendix E to the Agreement; and

(2) were developed by the parties to the Agreement in accordance with section 17(b) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1616(b)).

(c) CORRECTIONS.—Beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, with the consent of the other parties to the Agreement, may only make typographical or clerical corrections to the Agreement and any exhibits to the Agreement.

(d) GENERAL AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY.—The Secretary may carry out all actions allowed or required under the Agreement.

SEC. 5. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Mexico?

There was no objection.

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 2340 would ratify an agreement between the United States, the Bering